



A TALE OF
TRIUMPH
AND
TRAGEDY
by ROY THOMAS
AND
JERRY ORDWAY!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

VS. THE MAN
CALLED CYCLOTRON!

ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 21
MAY



05

70989 31111

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET!

MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE!

ABLE TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS AT A SINGLE BOUND!



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A Warner Communications Company

Y'KNOW, FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS THE WRITER/EDITOR HAS WANTED TO OPEN A COMICS STORY WITH THE FOREGOING DEATHLESS LINES. NOW THAT IT'S OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, HE CAN SHOW YOU WHAT THE MAN OF TOMORROW WAS LOOKING AT:

NOT ONLY THE TOWN AND PERISPHERE ON THE FORMER WORLD'S FAIRGROUNDS IN THIS YEAR OF OUR LORD 1968, BUT ALSO THE COSTUMED STALWARTS OF THE EARTH-TWO'S

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY MASKED HEROES IN ONE PLACE SINCE--

--SINCE THE FOUNDRING OF THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK, RIGHT, SUPERMAN?

OH, YES, RIGHT.

NOT THAT WE RECALL MUCH ABOUT THAT LITTLE CAPE-- EXCEPT WE ALL WOUND UP PARTYING ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

JOHN!... JOHN!

ROY THOMAS
WRITER/EDITOR

JERRY ORDWAY
ILLUSTRATOR

MIKE MACHLAN
INKER

C. MCINTYRE
LETTERER

GEORGE DAVENPORT
COLORIST

SAY, HAWKMAN-- IS GREEN LANTERN ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?

THAT'S WHAT DR. MID-NITE'S TRYING TO DETERMINE NOW.

OH, IF YOU DON'T AND AM ASKING-- WHAT'S THAT HUSBY YOURS HOLDING?

IT'S WHAT PRESENTED MY ANSWERING TO HIS CHALLENGE TO US ALL-STARS AN HOUR OR SO BACK, LIBERTY BELLE.

IT'S CALLED THE POWERSTONE-- FROM THE LOST MOUNTAIN OF KROONAK, IN SKULL VALLEY.

ONLY THING IS, MY ENEMY LUTHOR WANTED IT, TOO-- AND FOR A WHILE. HE GOT IT.

A Tale of THREE CITADELS!

"Here in these halls of science—
Here in these towers of art,
We have built the true defiance—
And girded the nation's heart..."

—FROM HELGE HANSEN, "DYNODON, AIRBORN,"
ONE OF THE OFFICIAL POEMS OF THE 1954
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR.

NOW THERE'S
A REAL MAN
OF STEEL, BU
HANK!

A
DREAMBOY
OF STEEL,
YOU MEAN!

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, SANDMAN,
BUT I CAN'T FIND IT IN ME TO BE
SO LIGHT-HEARTED...AFTER THOSE
BITTER DEATH-DREAMS THE
BRAIN WAVE PUT US THROUGH.

YOU'LL LEARN,
TARANTULA. IN OUR
BUSINESS, YOU EITHER
REAL WITH THE PUNCHES
—OR THEY FLATTEN
YOU.

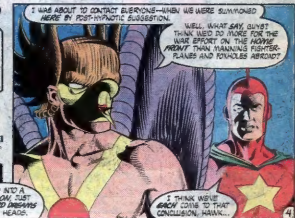
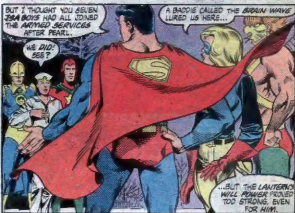
IN LAST ISSUE.—A.T.

"LUCKY, I MANAGED
TO TRICK HIM OUT
OF IT—"

"—AND OUR
RELATIONSHIP
RETURNED TO
NORMALCY.
YOU MIGHT SAY."

IT GAVE HIM
SUPER-POWERS
OF ALL SORTS—
WHILE ROBBERING
ME OF MY OWN.

IT WAS ALL
SANDMAN WIT-
NESS, REMEMBERED
A SUPERMAN
WITNESS, STEEL
WITNESS.—A.T.





...THOUGH I SURE WISH WE
KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE SPECTRE!

HE ALWAYS SEEMED
TO ME TO HAVE ROUGHLY
THE POWERS OF GOD--
YET HE DIDN'T SENSE
OUR DANGER HERE
AND SHOW UP. IT'S
NOT LIKE HIM.

AND THAT, STARMAN, IS WHY
FINANCING THE SPECTRE WILL BE
OUR FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS--
AFTER WE REPORT TO
WASHINGTON.

OH--I DON'T MEAN
TO KEEP TALKING SHOP
AND EXCLUDING YOU
ALL-STARS WHO AREN'T
ALSO JSAERS, BUT--



NO SWEAT, HAWK. WE KNOW ITS
CHARACTER SAYS THE JSA NEVER HAS
MORE THAN EIGHTY REGULAR MEMBERS.

BESIDES--
ONCE A CHAIRMAN,
ALWAYS A CHAIRMAN,
RIGHT?



HEY, I'VE GOT A HOT IDEA, GROUP! IF
WE FORM A JUSTICE BATTALION--

--WONDER
WOMAN CAN BE
OUR SECRETARY--!



HUNT OF ALL THE JERRY MOTIONS!
THAT LADY'S GOT MORE POWER IN
HER LITTLE FINGER THAN YOU--

YEAH, BUT OTHERWISE IT'D
PROBABLY BE ME--AND NEITHER
MY THUNDERBOLT NOR HE CAN
SPELL SO GOOD.

'IDES I'LL BET
SHE WRITES
FAST!



WONDER WOMAN DIDN'T
LEAVE PARADISE ISLAND SO
SHE COULD SHARPEN KICKS
FOR THE DURATION, THUNDER.

STILL, I AGREE IT'S
BEST WE FOUGHT ON THE
NORME FRONT FOR A
WHILE...

...AT LEAST UNTIL WE
FIGURE A WAY THOSE OF
US WITH ~~ARMED~~ ARMED
POWERS CAN VENTURE
INTO ENEMY-HELD TERRITORY
WITHOUT BEING TURNED INTO
KIDNAP CARDS COURTESY
OF HITLER AND THE
DRAGON KING.

WAGS ISSUE
#44--REV.



BUT I'M THE ONE WHO
WAS ASKED, DR. FATE--
AND I ACCEPT.

WE'VE ALL GOT
TO SACRIFICE FOR THE
WAR EFFORT,
RIGHT?--AND I'D BE
PROUD TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH
THE JSA.

OH! THAT JUST
REMINDS ME HOW
THAT ~~FAKE~~ THOR
TOOK UP JSA-AN
IN MANHATTAN.

YOU SAID MY OLD
ROE FAIRYTALES
PENTON DID IT--
CONVINCED HE
REALLY WAS THE
NORSE THUNDER
GOD,?

HE NEARLY
CONVINCED ME--
WITH THAT
POWERFUL BALL-
HEADED BLUE
HAMMER OF HIS!

ALMOST THAT SOUNDS
LIKE A MULLET I LOST
ON A CASE--MORE THAN
A YEAR AGO!

IT DOES?

AND IF THAT BABY
EVER FELL INTO THE
WAGS HANDS--!

TO BETTER CHECK
OUT THAT HAWKIER--
JUST TO BE ON THE
SAFE SIDE.

I'LL GO ALONG--
TO SHOW YOU WHERE
I STASHED IT AND
THE DEBRIS.

PERHAPS I
SHOULD GO AS WELL
SINCE MAGIC MAY
WILL BE INVOLVED
AND THAT'S STILL
SORT OF A SPECIALTY
OF MINE. EVEN IF--

HE SEEMS
NORMAL...
THOUGH I'M
AN M.D., NOT A
PSYCHIATRIST.

HARD TELLING WHAT THOSE DEATH-IMAGES
DID TO OUR ANAKOR AND LANTERN TOOK
THE BURLY OF--

LOOK, I
KEEP TELLING
YOU, MID-NITE.
I'LL LIVE.

YOU GUYS
SCOOT OFF TO
WASHINGTON;
ALL I NEED IS
A LITTLE
SHUT-EYE.

HEY, WE FORGOT
ALL ABOUT GREEN
LANTERN! DOC--IS HE?

WE COULD ALL
USE SOME
SLEEP. IT'S BEEN
A LONG
NIGHT.

TELL THE
WAR DEPT. BOYS
WE'LL BE ALONG
SHORTLY.
OKAY?

MIND TELLING ME WHY
YOU'RE MITCHING A
RIDE, ATONIT?

HAWK TOLD ME ABOUT THAT "HAMMER
OF THOR," BUT I NEVER GOT AROUND TO
SEEING IT BEFORE HE LOST IT. SO...

SEE YOU IN
D.C., GUYS!

WELL, I GUESS WE'D
BETTER GET GOING.
IF WE WANT TO REACH
WASHINGTON BY
DAWN.
MY INVISIBLE
PLANE WON'T
TAKE LONG TO--

SAY, YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
BOTHER,
PRINCESS--

—NOT WHILE MY OWN PERSONAL
THUNDERBOLT CAN GIVE US DOOR-
TO-DOOR SERVICE.

IMPRESSIVE!
EVEN BEATS
MY GRAVITY
ROD. IT.

KNOCKY EVER ASKED
THE ANSWER WHETHER
HE WANTED TO GO FOR
A RIDE!

THAT SPARK-HEAD
WOULD GIVE
EVEN FLASH
AND ME A
RUN FOR OUR
MONEY.

AT
LEAST.

HA HONKIN'
OF JOHNNY
THUNDER'S MAGIC
WORD, TECHN--
—EY.





ALL KIDDING ASIDE,
WAND IF I TAG ALONG?

I'M AN ENGINEER
—AT LEAST I WAS
TILL I ENLISTED.

BE MY
GUEST.

IF THE OTHERS
GET BACK BEFORE
US, TELL 'EM WHERE
WE WENT, OKAY?

WE WON'T BE
LONG—BUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING, BELLE?

YOU SEEM
SO...
SAD.

JUST...
TIRED, I
SUPPOSE.

LOOKS LIKE I'M
NOT THE ONLY
MYSTERY-MAN
WHO LIKES
BRAINY LADIES,
HUM, I.Q.?

TARANTULA,
YOUR EYES ARE
CURRENTLY
BLUE.

WOULD YOU
CARE TO TRY
FOR BLACK?

GOODEN THAT!
IT'S JUST THAT
—WELL, MY SPEED
POWERS DON'T LOOK
SO HOT NEXT
TO GUYS LIKE SUPERMAN
AND GREEN LANTERN,
Y'KNOW?



LISTEN, DON'T SELL
LIBERTY BULLE
SHORT, FELLA.

I SORT-OF LIKE
THE LADY ANGEL—
BUT IF YOU'VE GOT
ANY PROBLEMS, THEY'RE
OF YOUR OWN DOING,
NOBODY ELSE'S.

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
AND I
KNOW
IT...



...BUT NONE OF THIS GOES
IN THAT BOOK ON MYSTERY
HEROES YOU'RE WRITING.
GET IT?

I'M A PRO,
QUICK.

I DON'T NEED
LESSONS FROM YOU
ON JOURNALISTIC
ETHICS.



SO WHAT'S WITH YOU TITANI-
UM THINGS? ABOUT TO
BECOME TRIPLETS?

NOT THE WORST IDEA
YOU EVER HAD,
QUICK.

THIS ROOM OF THE
BRAIN WAVE USED AGAINST
US MIGHT JUST HAVE...
POTENTIALS...



AFTER ALL,
A PLACE THIS
SIZE COULD
ALWAYS USE...

...A
BUTLER.

PART
II

the atom firebrand DOCTOR FATE

HAWKMAN

BY THE
GRIP OF
HAWK!

NOW I SEE WHY
JOHNNY QUICK TOOK
ME ASIDE AND
WHISPERED WE'D BE
IN FOR A SHOCK
WHEN WE SAW
JSA-HQ!

NO, ATOM.
THIS ISN'T
WHAT HE
MEANT.

RIGHT! THE
OTHER ALL-STARS
DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT THE ENTIRE
HOTEL BEING—
ON FIRE!

AND IT WASN'T, WHEN WE LEFT—
AFTER WE'D BEATEN THAT PAPER
"TRICK" A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO.
SO WHAT?

WE'LL SOON FIND
OUT, FIREBRAND.

GOOD
EVENING,
MAYOR
LABARON.

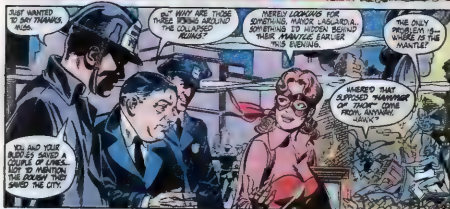
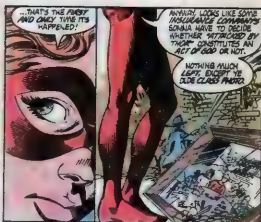
NOTHING
NICH GOOD
ABOUT IT,
HAWKMAN.

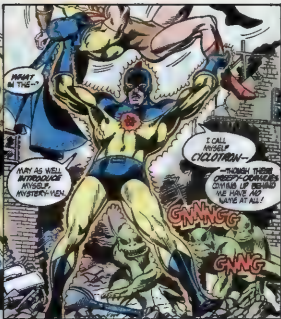
DON'T I HAVE ENOUGH TO DO--BEING
MAYOR OF NEW YORK AND HEAD OF
NATIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE--WITHOUT YOU
JUSTICE SOCIETY BUBS TURNING INTO
TROUBLE MAGNETS?

FIRST SOME
LOONEY WITH
AN ELECTRIC
HAMMER
TURNS YOUR
NINTH-FLOOR
DIES INTO A
WAR ZONE.

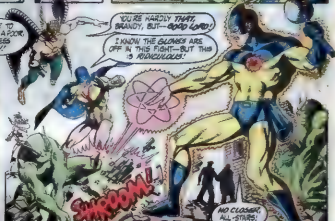
--AND NOW
THIS FIRE,
WHICH SHOT
UP FROM
REARFIRE? 9













OH MY
GOD...



DON'T WORRY,
MAYOR. I'LL—

IT SEEMS
IMPOSSIBLE,
TILE...



YET SUDDENLY, A SECOND
BLUE-CLAD FORM HURLS ITSELF
TOWARD MAYOR AND MAYHEM—



ONLY TO CRASH, NEXT
MOMENT, BENEATH A
JAGGED PILE OF
SMOLDERING RUBBLE!

IT—IT
GOT BOTH
OF 'EM!



FATE WAS—
SO DRAUNGY!
I WONDER
IF HE'S—

WAIT!
LOOK!

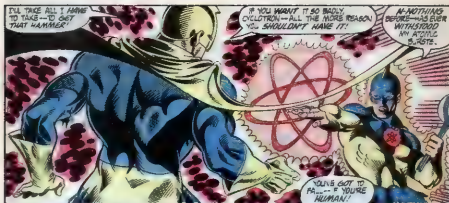
SOMETHING
STIRRING—
UNDER ALL THAT
WRECKAGE—



IT'S
DOCTOR
FATE!

BEFORE YOU
REJOICE FOR ANY
SURVIVAL, MY FRIENDS—





I'LL TAKE ALL I HAVE
TO TAKE--TO GET
THAT HAMMER!

IF YOU WANT IT SO BADLY,
CYCLOTRON--ALL THE MORE REASON
YOU SHOULD'NT HAVE IT!

IF NOTHING
BEFORE--HAS EVER
WITHSTOOD
MY ATOMIC
BURSTS.

YOU'VE GOT TO
FA-- F YOU'RE
HUMAN!



AH--AT
LAST!

YOU'RE A VALIANT FOE,
DR. FATE. I'M SORRY I HAD
TO--HURT YOU.

WELL, I WON'T BE SORRY--WHEN I GET
MY HANDS ON--
SENNIN'!

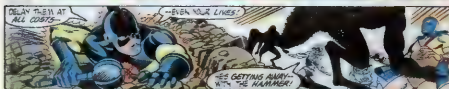
FATE'S DOWN!



--BUT I'M BETTING
CYCLOTRON'S
DRAINED, TOO.

EASY, FATE, WE'LL
GET HIM.

FOUR OF YOU--
DELAY THEM!--
HURRY!



DELAY THEM AT
ALL COSTS--

--EVEN YOUR LIVES!

--GETTING AWAY--
WITH THE HAMMER!



GET TO GET
THROUGH
THESE
S--VES!

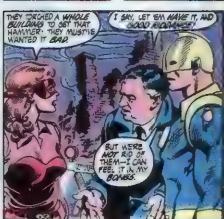
WE WILL,
HAWK, AND--

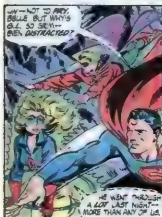
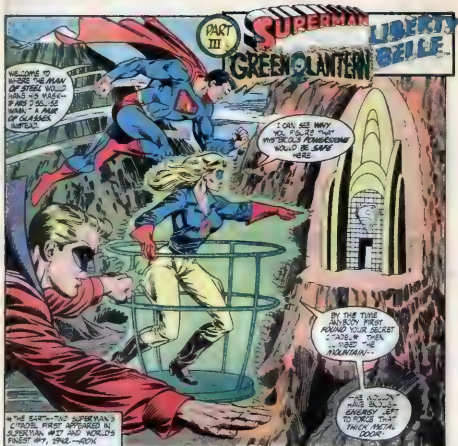
DON'T TELL ME
FATE'S UP AND
AROUND ALREADY!

FOR A--
--E GOOD, IT'S
DOING US.

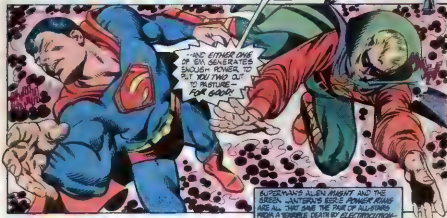
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 18









—SO WHY DON'T
YOU JUST STARE
AND THEN—
AND BE
SURE?!

IT IS HIM,
I KNEW IT!
ULTRA—OR THE
ULTRA-HUMANITE,
TO USE HIS FULL
NAME!

WHAT DID
YOU SAY—
HIS NAME?!

THIS IS NO
TIME TO SUBTLE
OVER GENDER,
JANETON!

YOU THREE
HAVE NO TIME
FOR ANYTHING,
NOMAN!

A FEW SHORT
SECONDS—AND
I'LL BE POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO
DESTROY
YOU ALL!

THOSE I AM
DEEP-FRIED
ALREADY, YOU
MEAN!

STOP HIM
JACE! ULTRAS
BATHED IN THE
FULL GLOW OF THE
POWERSTONE—
THEY'LL BE THE
MOST DANGEROUS
CRIMINAL IN THE
HISTORY OF THE
EARTH!

**THE POWERSTONE
CORRUPTS--ABSOLUTELY!**

**NEXT
ISSUE!**

MEANWHILE...

Wear.

I've done the convention trail in spaces this year.

Started in Philly in mid-April...ended at Creation Con in NY Thanksgiving weekend. Did Dallas, Phil Seuling's NY con, San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, Boston and Wintercon in Oklahoma in between.

Almost learned how to sleep in a hotel bed and eat airlines food without complaining... Almost.

(Thank God for some of the good restaurants in those cities and the people I went to them with.)

You gotta be some kind of nut to agree to be away from hearth and home for 10 weekends during the "nice" weather...or obsessed with the need to find new talent. Probably both.

Anyway, guys, I gotta report...There is talent out there in television land! I know because I sought it and I found it.

What I was doing at all those comic fan conventions is I was conducting a talent search. The conventions advertised that I would be there to give a talk on "How to Break into Comics" (Somehow that sounds like an illegal act) and then to look at the portfolios of those fans who had brought them...And, yep, I found 25-30 who showed good promise. Asked 'em to do more samples and send them to me at DC. Most of these were better than the portfolios I looked at originally. Encouraging.

But now I had to keep up some kind of communication so that we'd still be talking to each other when (and if) these talented folk became good enough to start working professionally.

Sadly, I found I couldn't keep up this communication properly

and still handle my regular workload, so you know what I did? I hired someone to handle that job full-time! To communicate with talented folk who can write or draw but aren't sure what to do next.

His name is Sal Amendola, his job is Talent Coordinator, and he's the man at DC to convince that you're the next Marv Wolfman or the next Frank Miller.

I had lunch with Sal yesterday and he asked me to pass along these sensible suggestions to those who feel they have the abilities needed for a career in comics and want to send along samples through the mail.

To wit:

1) Mail copies of your work. Not the originals. Xeroxes or photostats will be fine.

2) Pack them securely. A piece of heavy cardboard in the envelope discourages postal employees from bending the package.

3) Use sufficient postage for first class mail or special handling. Any more expensive class will be a waste of money.

4) Put someone's name on the envelope; not just DC Comics. If you want it to reach Sal Amendola's desk (I do!), put his name on it.

5) Put your name and address on every page! Sample art often becomes separated from the accompanying letter and the envelope is most often thrown away. Also, individual pages are sometimes separated from the rest. Your name on every page guarantees that we know whose work we're looking at, no matter what.

6) A self-addressed, stamped envelope assures the return of your material although we try to

return everything anyway. In any case, our response will be faster if you include an SASE.

Good luck!

Guess what I did from April to November when I wasn't getting on airplanes to go to conventions?

○ Give up?

I was getting on airplanes to go to Atari (another Warner Communications company).

Atari HQ is located in a place called Silicon Valley (read Sunnyvale, CA) and I made a half-dozen or more trips there between conventions. That was heady stuff...Atari is a neat company. I especially enjoyed working with the programmers. They're a lot like comic people... young, creative, fun-loving, and we felt comfortable with each other as we created ATARI FORCE and SWORDQUEST.

If you don't know what ATARI FORCE and SWORDQUEST are (been hibernating?), they're two comic book series produced by DC Comics for Atari to be packed in with certain cartridges. So far, ATARI FORCE numbers 1, 2 and 3 have appeared in "Defender", "Berserk" and "Star Raiders" cartridges and SWORDQUEST numbers 1 and 2 in cartridges called "EarthWorld" and "FireWorld" respectively.

If you bought these exciting electronic game cartridges, you know that the comics were an added plus to the general game-play fun at no additional cost.

Fear not, friends...We'll not forget those of you who have yet to enjoy these games. Sometime in 1983, a new, more exciting version of ATARI FORCE will be on the newsstands and the entire SWORDQUEST saga will probably be available in a large size than the original and released by DC as an album or a mini-series or a series of graphic novels.

SWORDQUEST was written by Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway, drawn by George Perez, and inked and edited by yours truly.

The "new" ATARI FORCE book will be written by Gerry Conway and Roy Thomas and drawn primarily by Jose Garcia-Lopez.

These should be knock-outs...Look for 'em.

Warrier and wearier...

Thank you and good

after...~~xxxxxxxx~~

Dick-

ALL-STAR SQUADROOM

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

OUR USUAL SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

The letters are in—and ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1 is a decided hit! So we thought we'd devote this letters page of the regular title to your misadventures and meanderings on it—while we get to work on next year's double-length blockbuster. Next issue, we'll get back to comments on issues #16-17, never fear...!

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars,

With all the great Annuals coming out this summer, it's hard to decide which is the best. Finally, though, after much deliberation, I believe I've found the best one. Your ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1 had all the elements that compose a fast-paced, action-filled, drama-packed story. Though we didn't see many of the current team of All-Stars (except for the Atom), Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, the Flash, Wildcat, the Guardian, and the Mighty Mite were a phenomenal team with just the right touch of class. The War Bond Circus was a nice bit of nostalgia from the 1940's; GL, WW, and Flash work better together than just about any trio, Batman, Robin, and Superman included, and they seem to have struck up a friendship reminiscent of the other Big Three.

The Atom is my favorite non-powered Golden Age hero, and I soon became attached to Wildcat and the Guardian. Jim Harper may not have any super-powers, but he has one of the best reasons to become a mystery-man. He grew up in a place where life took everything and gave nothing in return, and now he is trying to help that neighborhood and the people who live there to improve their lives.

The addition of the Guardians of the Universe at the end, too, was a welcome surprise, once again tying in Alan (GL) Scott with his Earth-One counterpart of later years. The Guardians knew the consequences of releasing such evil on an unsuspecting world, but their confidence in the Emerald Champion of that earth was inspiring. Thank you for such a beautiful epic.

Duane Leary
117 Emeline Place
Morsehead City, NC 28567

Thanks for buying it! And don't worry—Jim (Guardian) Harper will reappear in a future issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

—R.T.

Dear Editor:

From a great COMIC CAVALCADE-inspired splash page, an exceptional story began, as "The Three Faces of Evil" is one of the best JSA/All-Star Squadron stories ever. Seeing the Flash, Green Lantern, and Wonder Woman in an era when they were at the height of their popularity clearly shows why these three deserved it, and their appearance then in three regular titles—four, when they became active in ALL-STAR COMICS. It really makes you wish that Roy Thomas could do a revival of today's Justice Society of America, just so the glory that was could also be now!

And while the Atom has been very active in the current

SQUADRON comics, it was nice to see Wildcat and the Guardian. Although it was instrumental to the story, it was still rewarding to see the origin recaps of these three—and the fact that this was the Guardian's first night in action was an added bonus, as well as an untold story. The heroes worked very well together in teams, and seeing the Guardian alongside the Flash makes me wish he could have been admitted to that most illustrious super-hero group of the forties, the Justice Society.

The art by Gonzalez and Ordway was utterly fantastic. They capture the essence of the heroes and of the time. I really love their work, and look forward to it in the regular monthly comic.

Kent A. Phenis
132 N. Maridian St.
Apt. 913
Indianapolis, IN 46202

And you'll see it, Kent—but not in the same mag, since Jerry Ordway is now the main artist on ALL-STAR SQUADRON, and Adrian is laboring with the equally-talented Alfredo Alcala in the pages of ARAK, SON OF THUNDER, likewise scripted by Ye Writer.

Oh, and perhaps we should clarify that first statement of yours, for those who don't know: The splash page of ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1 was indeed based largely on the cover of COMIC CAVALCADE #2, a 1943 comic which starred Green Lantern, the Flash, and Wonder Woman in separate adventures but which always featured them together (usually having fun) on the cover. Somehow, when Roy was growing up, he always felt that those three heroes had a much closer friendship than most others, largely because of those covers—so he's made that feeling an integral part of ALL-STAR SQUADRON. It just took him three decades or so to get the opportunity to do so, that's all. But he's a patient guy—in some ways.

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars,

What an Annual!!! I've always wondered how heroes met and how they felt toward each other. I never liked the idea of first meetings where heroes just say "Hi!" In the ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL, this was not done. I think that it's human nature to be a little suspicious of each other at first.

The link between the three minor heroes was a stroke of genius, especially the way it all tied in. I must say the "glowing ball" theme could have been better, but the way it fit in with Green Lantern's origin was unsurpassable. It was well worth buying.

Trevor Kimball
789 E. Broadway
Haverhill, MA 01830

We could say that's all we care about, Trevor, but "wouldn't be so. Each of the talented people who work on ALL-STAR SQUADRON each month has his own personal goals—the things he wants to achieve with the writing or the art or the coloring or whatever—and to him, that's even more important than the final sales period. All we know is that, when we finished ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1, we all seem to have felt, "Yeah, that one turned out pretty well!"... and coming from ourselves to ourselves, that's about as high praise as you're likely to hear. Still, no comic-mag'll be around long if the

readers don't like it—so we couldn't be happier that our very first (but hopefully far from last) Annual was a resounding commercial and artistic success—and not necessarily in that order!

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars,

Now that I know that Jerry Ordway didn't leave DC, but only took time off from the monthly mag to do the Annual, I can rest easier and enjoy my comics. He's one of my favorite inkers, probably soon to become my favorite. I don't think I'd appreciate ALL-STAR SQUADRON as much if Jerry left.

Anyway, to the good stuff: The Annual. Roy has this knack for taking unrelated events from the past—really small, insignificant events—and realizing the promise they may hold. I never caught on in advance to the possible storyline concerning the managers (or rather, manager) of Wildcat, the Atom, and the Guardian. The story had no direct continuity with the monthly, which was refreshing (it was weird seeing a menace who wasn't a Nazi). Instead, it turned out to be a play on human emotions, and offered greater revelations concerning the origins of the Guardians of the Universe and the Golden-Age Green Lantern.

The tale didn't have that much action to it (after the first seven pages), but rather it carried a lot of character interplay and presented us with three more origins. The art was, to say the least, extraordinary. Adrian Gonzales, I feel, is still in the learning stages, so he's always experimenting with wild panel arrangements and angle shots. He does excellent battle scenes, and he's one of the few artists who remembers what Wildcat's original costume looked like (I have a copy of SECRET ORIGINS #3, you understand).

As stated before, Jerry Ordway is outstanding. I've noticed he's been doing solo jobs in a number of fan publications lately, so I was glad he was allowed to go solo on the cover and the Guardian Fact-File page. As you can surmise, I liked ALL-STAR SQUADRON ANNUAL #1. Because of it, I was able to buy two ALL-STAR stories within a week or two of each other, which makes me wish that the mag could come out more than once a month, because (and don't tell Lan and Marv I told ya) it's even better than that other super-group DC publication—oh, what's their name? THE NEW TEEN TIGHTWADS or something?

Chris Khalaf
5128 Georgi Ln.
Houston, TX 77092

Something like that, Chris. But don't think you're going to get this writer to say anything derogatory about Dynamic DC's most successful comics title; after all, he reads the thing himself! Since you're such a Jerry Ordway fan, we presume

you've been enjoying the heck out of the past few issues—just as we have!

—Roy Thomas.

PULSATING POSTSCRIPT: With this issue, Lan Wein turns over the editorial reins of ALL-STAR SQUADRON to Ye Writer (Roy Thomas), who'll henceforth be holding down both positions on the mag he conceived a couple of years back. A hearty thanks is in order for long-suffering Lan, who's had to put up with a cast of characters numerous enough to make even the Legion of Super-Heroes cringe. Weep not for Lan, though—we've got a feeling Dynamic DC will keep him plenty busy on new projects. Including, we hope, a new writing assignment or two, soon as he finds the time; there haven't been nearly enough stories from the co-creator of SWAMP THING of late!

Lan's contributions to ALL-STAR SQUADRON, of course, are many—but primary among them are bringing first Jerry Ordway (as inker), then Adrian Gonzales (as penciler), and finally Jerry Ordway again (this time as penciler) onto the mag. For this, not only comicdom but I myself am eternally in his debt.

Oh, and this might be the best place to mention, as well, one Nick Cusi (pronounced "Cutty," last time we heard). Nick's a longtime comics pro who serves as assistant editor on ALL-STAR SQUADRON (plus two other Thomas-edited titles, ARAX and CAPTAIN CARROT) and performs numerous other editing chores for DC as well. As they say on "Bowling for Dollars," Nick's great on follow-through!

AND NOW OUR FINAL PANDEMONIAC POSTSCRIPT: This same month, which sees the editorial changeover, a few words on the artistic side of this magazine are in order, too. For such is the loving attention which neo-penciler (and longtime inker/embellisher) Jerry Ordway lavishes on ALL-STAR—as comics fandom has doubtless been noticing by now—that he's found he won't have time to ink his own exciting pencils for a few months.

Enter Mike Machlan, a fellow artist and longtime friend of Jerry's. The Wisconsin-based pair worked together on various fan-published comics features which brought first Jerry, then belatedly Mike, to the attention of DC's ever-questing editors... and now at last they'll be working together professionally for the first time. Mike's got a powerful penciling style as well, and Jerry tells us he even helped to lay out (that's comics jargon for "roughly pencil") a few pages in this very issue. We'll let you guess which ones, though. Mike's a crackjack inker and will be handling those chores for the next few months, while he, Jerry, and Ye Writer/Editor are also readying a brand new super-hero feature for Dynamic DC—one which will make its thrilling debut a few short issues from now in ALL-STAR SQUADRON!

ACTION COMICS #543—In every age, the immortal VANDAL SAVAGE has made power his own—first as a pharaoh or king, then as the power behind the throne. In today's world, technology is power—and ABRAXAS COMMUNICATIONS is SAVAGE's key to power. SUPERMAN now must not only contend with Lois Lane's refusal to see him, but a power-hungry genius who has all the time in the world to slowly turn Earth's population against the Last Son of Krypton. Story by Marv Wolfman, art by Gil Kane. Gil also did the cover.

DETECTIVE COMICS #526—A special anniversary edition! This month marks the 500th appearance of THE BATMAN, who debuted in #27. It's a story with major impact on the legend of THE BATMAN. Seemingly every villain he's ever battled is out to assassinate him, spurred on by Croc's insistence that only THE BATMAN's murderer is qualified to be the Crime King of Gotham. In the midst of this homicidal fervor, Dick Grayson urges that Bruce Wayne take young Jason Todd into his care. Jason's parents were trapeze artists, killed when their circus manager refused to be extorted by criminals. Dick sees Jason as a way to reverse THE BATMAN's increasing solitude. And so Jason Todd becomes—ROBIN. THE BOY WONDER. Gerry Conway triumphs as scripter; Don Newton pencils, and Dick Giordano inks. Don and Dick drew the cover.



CAMELOT 3000 #6—The enemies of Earth attack during the wedding of Arthur and Guinevere. The result is "Royal Funeral," yet another superlative story by Mike W. Barr, writer; Brian Bolland, penciler; and Bruce Patterson, inker. Cover by Bolland. At select outlets only.

WEIRD WAR TALES #123—The weirdest war tale of all: "Captain Spaceman Will Be Waiting!" An offbeat winner by Mishkin & Cohn, Rich Buckler and Frank Giacoia. Kubert cover.

KNOW, FOR REASONS HE WROTE/EDITED HAS WANTED TO OPEN A COMICS STORY WITH THE FOLLOWSING DEATHLESS LINE, NOW THAT ITS OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, HE CAN SHOW YOU WHAT THE MAN OF TONIGHT WAS ADDING AT:

NOT ONLY THE PRODIGY AND ADROUPOUSE OF IN THE FORTUNE WORLD'S PERSEPOLIS IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1962, BUT ALSO THE COMPILED BOLWARTS OF THE EARTH-TWO'S

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY MASKED MEN IN ONE PLACE SINCE--"

"--BACK THE FORMATION OF THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK, RIGHT SUPERMAN?"

"EXACTLY, RIGHT."

"NOT THAT WE RECALL MUCH ABOUT THAT LITTLE CASE-- EXCEPT WE ALL WOULD UP HURRYING ON THE GOSWEN STATE BRIDGE."

"JENNY--"

"SUPP--"

"NOW THERE'S A FORMAL MAN OF STEEL, OH, HANKY!"

"A DREAMER OF STEEL, YOU MEAN!"

"HARKEN! IT'S JUST MR. SANDMAN, BUT I CAN'T FIND IT IN ME TO BE SO LIGHT-HEARTED-- AFTER THOSE BODERS DEATH-DREAMS! THE BOON HAVE PUT US THROUGH."

"YOU'LL DENY, THANTULA, IN OUR BUSINESS, YOU EITHER ABLE WITH THE FUNDING-- OR THEY REJECT YOU."

ROY THOMAS & JERRY ORDWAY
WRITER/EDITOR ILLUSTRATOR
ARNE HANCOCK SONER C. FROSTY LETTERER SPIN DRABES C. COLONIST

A Tale of THREE CITADELS!

"Here in these halls of science-- Here in these towers of art-- We have built the true defender-- And guided the nation's heart--"

"--THE HOUSE OF WISDOM, 'THANKS, AMERICA--' AND IF THE OFFICIAL PICTURE OF THE YEAR AND THE WORLD'S FAIR."

"LAST ISSUE--ETC."

"MR. HANKMAN-- IS GOSWEN LAURENCE ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?"

"THAT'S WHAT HE AND-ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE NOW."

"UH, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING-- WHAT'S THAT HUSBY YOURS HOLDING?"

"IT'S WHAT PRESENTED MY ANSWERING THAT CHALLENGE TO US ALL-STAR MEN HOUR OF SO BACK, LIBERTY BELL."

"IT'S CALLED THE AMERICAN STONE-- FROM THE LOOT MOUNTAIN OF KORDONIA, IN SMOKE VALLEY."

"ONLY THING IS, MY ENEMY GOSWEN WANTED IT, TOO-- AND FOR A WHILE, WE GOT IT."

"LUCKILY, I MANAGED TO TRICK HIM OUT OF IT--"

"--AND OUR RELATIONSHIP RETURNED TO ACCORDANCE, YOU MIGHT SAY."

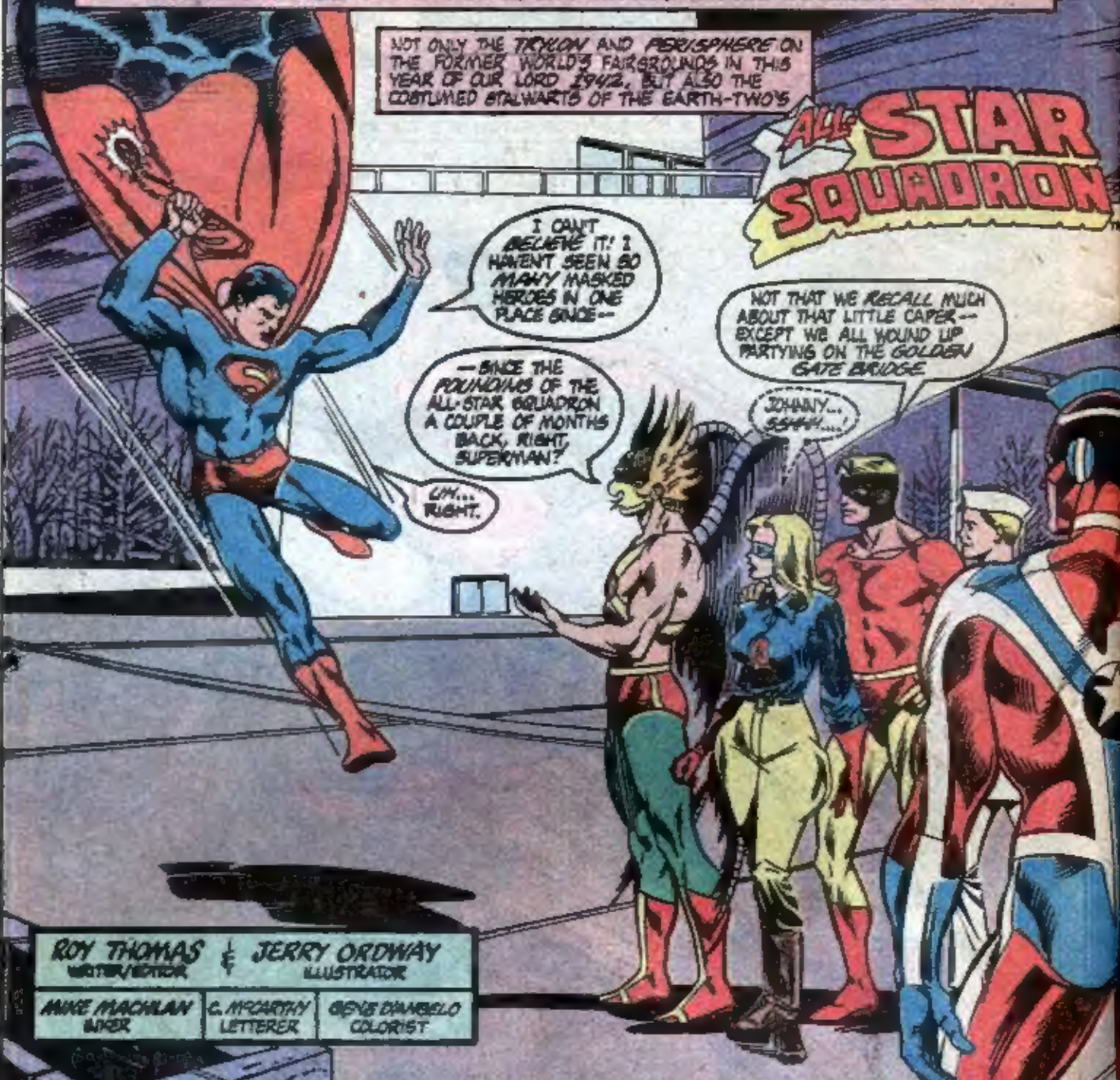
"IT GAVE HIM, HOWEVER, POWERS OF ALL SORTS-- WHILE RESCUING ME OF MY OWN."

"I SEE ACTING WISE AND SUPERMAN WISE, BUT REPORTED IN SUPERMAN NEWS, ETC."

Y'KNOW, FOR YEARS YE WRITER/EDITOR HAS WANTED TO OPEN A COMICS STORY WITH THE FOREGOING DEATHLESS LINES. NOW THAT ITS OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, WE CAN SHOW YOU WHAT THE MAN OF TOMORROW WAS LOOKING AT:

NOT ONLY THE TRYKON AND PERISPHERE ON THE FORMER WORLD'S FAIRGROUNDS IN THIS YEAR OF OUR LORD 1942, BUT ALSO THE COSTUMED STALWARTS OF THE EARTH-TWO'S

ALL-STAR SQUADRON



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY MASKED HEROES IN ONE PLACE SINCE--

--SINCE THE FOUNDINGS OF THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK, RIGHT, SUPERMAN?

UH... RIGHT.

NOT THAT WE RECALL MUCH ABOUT THAT LITTLE CAPER-- EXCEPT WE ALL WOUND UP PARTYING ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

JOHNNY... SHHHH!

ROY THOMAS & JERRY ORDWAY
WRITER/EDITOR ILLUSTRATOR
MIKE MACHLAN
INKER G. MCARTHY
LETTERER GUY D'ARIELLO
COLORIST

A Tale of THREE CITADELS!

"Here in these halls of science
Here in these towers of art,
We have built the true defiance
And girded the nation's heart..."
--FROM HELLING HANDBOOK, "ENDORROW, AMERICA,"
ONE OF THE OFFICIAL POEMS OF THE 1939
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR.



NOW THERE'S A REAL MAN OF STEEL, EH, HANK?

A DREAMBOAT OF STEEL, YOU MEAN!

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, SANDMAN, BUT I CAN'T FIND IT IN ME TO BE SO LIGHT-HEARTED... AFTER THOSE BIZARRE DEATH-DREAMS THE BRAIN WAVE PUT US THROUGH.

YOU'LL LEARN, TARANTULA. IN OUR BUSINESS, YOU EITHER ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES... OR THEY FLATTEN YOU.

*LAST ISSUE--R.T.



SAY, HAWKMAN-- IS GREEN LANTERN ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?

THAT'S WHAT DR. MID-NITE'S TRYING TO DETERMINE NOW.

UH, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING-- WHAT'S THAT HUGE GEM YOU'RE HOLDING?



IT'S WHAT PREVENTED MY ANSWERING THAT CHALLENGE TO US ALL-STAR AN HOUR OR SO BACK, LIBERTY BELLE.

IT'S CALLED THE POWERSTONE-- FROM THE LOST MOUNTAIN OF KRODWAY, IN SKULL VALLEY.

ONLY THING IS, MY ENEMY LUTHOR WANTED IT, TOO-- AND FOR A WHILE, HE GOT IT.



"LUCKILY, I MANAGED TO TRICK HIM OUT OF IT--"

IT GAVE HIM SUPER-POWERS OF ALL SORTS-- WHILE ROBBING ME OF MY OWN.

"--AND OUR RELATIONSHIP RETURNED TO NORMALCY, YOU MIGHT SAY."

*SEE ACTION #147 AND SUPERMAN #17, SING, REPRINTED IN SUPERMAN WEST, #172. --R.